"Chalo Khet Ki Aur" Radio Programme

1342. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had, of late, decided to launch a sponsored radio programme "Chalo Khet ki Aur", with a view to making the farmers' community aware about various Government schemes beneficial to them;

(b) whether the proposed programme was to be broadcast from various stations of AIR in Hindi and other regional languages, simultaneously;

(c) if so, whether broadcast of the above programme has since commenced; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by which date this programme is likely to come on the air?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) To start with the programme will be broadcast in Hindi on a limited number of All India Radio Stations.

(c) and (d) The production of audio spots has commenced. The broadcast of the programme will commence after adequate software, in terms of audio spots are in stock so as to ensure continuity of the broadcast of the programme.

Distribution of land among landless labourers

1343. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of acres of cultivable land are in disuse throughout the country;

(b) whether Government propose to distribute such cultivable land to landless farm labourers in the greater interest;

(c) if so, the action plan in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The lands under culturable Waste lands, Fallow lands and other degraded lands are underutilized with

respect to their potential. The distribution of lands to landless farm labourers falls under administrative jurisdiction of the States, therefore action is taken by respective State Governments on this matter.

Cattle and Buffalo Breeding in A.P.

1344. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh Government has been requesting for release of a grant of Rs. 42.47 crore for implementation of National Project of Cattle and Buffaloes breeding;

(b) if so, when such request was received in the Ministry;

(c) whether the State Government has also been requesting to release Rs. 11 crore as per the recommendations made by the Ministry of Agriculture;

(d) if so, the details of such recommendations; and

(e) the reasons for delay in releasing the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The revised proposal in respect of Andhra Pradesh under National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding for Rs. 55.66 crore for 2001-2002 was received in August, 2001.

(c) The Department has assessed the annual requirement for year 2001-2002 as Rs. 11.58 crore. These are yet to be approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee.

(d) The allocation against major activities of the project are:

(i)	Institutional Restructuring	Rs. 130.00 lakh
(ii)	Manpower Development	Rs. 99.32 lakh
(iii)	Strengthening of Frozen Semen Network	Rs. 869.00 lakh
(iv)	Breed Development / Bull Production	Rs. 60.00 lakh
	TOTAL	Rs. 1158.32 lakh

(e) The process of project approval envisages seeking comments on the proposal from the appraisal agencies and the comments need to be incorporated in the appraisal note with clarifications from the State.